



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|-----------------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 10/726,034 | 12/01/2003 | Oleg Shikhman | INE-0061D1 | 4728 |
| 23413 | 7590 | 08/01/2007 | EXAMINER | |
| CANTOR COLBURN, LLP | | | YABUT, DIANE D | |
| 55 GRIFFIN ROAD SOUTH | | | ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
| BLOOMFIELD, CT 06002 | | | 3734 | |
| MAIL DATE | | DELIVERY MODE | | |
| 08/01/2007 | | PAPER | | |

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

| | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Office Action Summary | Application No. | Applicant(s) |
| | 10/726,034 | SHIKHMAN ET AL. |
| | Examiner Diane Yabut | Art Unit 3734 |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 April 2007.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1 and 3-15 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1 and 3-15 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

This action is in response to applicant's amendment received 06 April 2007.

The examiner acknowledges the amendments made to the claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

- (a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.
- (b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1 and 3-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by **Hillstead** (U.S. Patent No. 6,830,174).

Claims 1, 3-7, 10-11: Hillstead discloses a trigger member **164** and a safety button **166** that prevents motion of the trigger member until the safety button is depressed. The trigger member is slidable from a first side to a second side and the second side to the first side of the handle, wherein the first side is the side proximal of 146 and the second side is the side distal of 146. The safety button includes pins (**172** or the top of **166**) extending through the first and second sides. Springs **176** and **170** (figure 2) can be said to surround the pins. The safety button includes two ribs **172** (both sides of safety button **166**) and the central portion **166** is considered the central or middle rib. Gaps separate these three ribs, as can be seen in figure 12.

Art Unit: 3734

Claims 8-9: The trigger member includes a safety button engaging member (figure 13) wherein when the safety button is not pressed, the engaging member abuts the central rib when an attempt is made to move the trigger. When depressed, the trigger member can be said to slide between the pair of ribs **172**. The safety button engaging member can be considered hook shaped (figure 13).

Claims 12-13: The handle includes "pockets" or open spaces to house the springs **176** and **170**. The pockets are large enough to house the pins and springs. Further, the trigger member **164** includes a spring receiving member (figure 17), and the handle assembly further comprises a trigger spring connected between the spring receiving member of the trigger and a protrusion within either of the sides (figure 17).

Claims 14-15: Hillstead further discloses an adjustment screw **136** that is capable of being shortened or lengthened only prior to securing the first side to the second side. The length of adjustment screw **136** determines the initial length of rod **118** extending from a distal end of the handle assembly.

Art Unit: 3734

3. Claims 1-3, 6-7 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by **Nobis** (U.S. Patent No. **5,137,198**).

Claims 1-3: Nobis discloses a trigger member **3** and a safety button **5**, wherein the trigger member is not movable until the safety button is depressed. The trigger member is slidable from first and second sides of the handle assembly. The safety button includes a pin **121** having an engageable end and extending through either side of the handle assembly (figure 4).

Claims 6-7: The safety button includes ribs with gaps therebetween (figure 4).

Claim 13: Figure 4 shows a spring (near 55) and a corresponding spring receiving member. The spring is connected to the handle and the trigger member.

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments filed 06 April 2007 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

5. The applicant argues that neither Hillstead nor Nobis teaches a button device that slides from one side of the device to the other to disengage the trigger, but rather the triggering device pivots. The examiner disagrees. As maintained above, the trigger member does pivot, which is also considered to "slide" in that there is smooth movement of one surface over another, (**164** against **146** in Hillstead and **3** against **90** in Nobis) and does not necessarily necessitate longitudinal or axial movement, and therefore the prior art reads on the claims.

Conclusion

6. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Diane Yabut whose telephone number is (571) 272-6831. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F: 9AM-4PM EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Hayes can be reached on (571) 272-4959. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 3734

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

DY



MICHAEL J. HAYES
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER